



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Edward Goodman papers

1899-1961 [bulk 1900s-1950s]

*T-Mss 1963-002

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Summary

Creator: Goodman, Edward, 1888-1962

Title: Edward Goodman papers

Date: 1899-1961 [bulk 1900s-1950s]

Size: 19.3 linear feet (29 boxes, 10 volumes, 2 oversized folders)

Source: Donated by Robert Halpern, 1962.

Abstract: Edward Goodman (1888-1962) was a New York-based writer, director, and producer. The Edward Goodman papers date from 1899 to 1961 and contain letters, writings and notes, photographs, and scrapbooks that document his early 20th century theatrical efforts.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Theatre Division at theatre@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Edward Goodman papers, *T-Mss 1963-002. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015 When part of the collection was previously arranged, some of the letters were put in alphabetical order. This order is maintained, but the other letters are in loose chronological order. Therefore, names and subjects in the letters may overlap between the separate arrangements. Many of the materials were also assigned catalog numbers before final processing, and those numbers are retained under notes in the container list. Additional materials arrived in May 2015 after processing, and were physically added to the end of the collection (Boxes 27-29), but intellectually integrated into the finding aid.

Creator History

Edward Goodman (1888-1962) was a New York-based writer, director, and producer. Goodman was the co-founder of the Washington Square Players (1914), an independent, non-commercial theatre group; and The Stagers, Inc. (1925) acting company. The Stagers actors and actresses included Warren William, Pat O'Brien, Katharine Cornell, and Josephine Hutchinson.

Goodman's original plays include *En Deshabille* (1913), *Saviors* (1915), and *Eugenically Speaking* (1916). Goodman wrote short stories for publications such as *Young's Magazine*, and was the author of *Make-Believe*, *The Art of Acting* (1956).

He taught and directed at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and was a member of the Dramatists' Guild. He also produced and directed plays such as *A Hero is Born* for the Federal Theatre Project, a 1935 New Deal program sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Scope and Content Note

The Edward Goodman papers date from 1899 to 1961 (bulk dates: 1900s-1950s) and contain letters, writings and notes, photographs, and scrapbooks that document his early 20th century theatrical efforts.

Letters make up the bulk of the collection. Many are Goodman's personal, incoming letters, but some of them are theater-related and pertain to his writing. Names and subjects in the letters, both personal and professional, may overlap between the separate arrangements.

Photographs include both personal images and performance stills from theatrical productions. Many of the annotated personal photographs are of Goodman and his family and friends. Most of the theatrical images are unlabeled, but it appears many of them are from Washington Square Players productions.

Writings and Notes feature many of Goodman's original plays and short stories such as the *Saviors* manuscript, the *En Deshabille* typescript, and various drafts of others. Some of the handwritten materials appear to be school notes and essays from his English courses.

The Federal Theatre Project and The Stagers Inc. scrapbooks contain clippings and programs related to various productions. The Theater Attendance scrapbooks document plays Goodman attended, through affixed programs and brief written notes about his experiences.

Additionally, there are materials related to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts; casting notes, theatrical drawings, lists; and loose programs from productions Goodman did not write, direct, or produce.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format or subject.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letters (correspondence)

Notes

Photographs
Scrapbooks
Writings (document genre)

Occupations

Male authors
Male dramatists
Theatrical producers and directors

Subjects

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Theater -- Production and direction

Names

Federal Theatre Project (New York, N.Y.)
The Stagers, Inc. (New York, N.Y.)
Washington Square Players (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 American Academy of Dramatic Arts 1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 315
- b. 1 f. 3 Calendar 1954
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 361
- b. 1 f. 4 Casting Notes 1950s
- b. 1 f. 5 Certificate 1932
- b. 27 f. 1 Certificates and Financial Letters 1925-1961
- b. 1 f. 6 Drawings 1900s
- b. 22 f. 3 Drawings 1920s
- Federal Theatre Project Scrapbooks
 - v. 1 1930s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 313
 - v. 2 1930s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 362
 - v. 3 1930s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 312
- Letters
 - b. 1 f. 7-8 1906-1912
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 345
 - b. 2 f. 1-7 1906-1918
Folders 1-2 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 345; and folders 3-6 contain MWEZ + N.C. 21, 002.
 - b. 3 f. 1-7 1908-1937
Folders 2-7 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 382.
 - b. 27 f. 3 1908-1961
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 293
 - b. 4 f. 1-6 1910-1954
Folders 1-3 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 361; and folders 4-6 contain MWEZ + N.C. 19, 381.
 - b. 5 f. 1-7 1912-1959
Folders 1-2 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 381; folder 5 contains MWEZ + N.C. 19, 375; and folder 7 contains MWEZ + N.C. 19, 338B.
 - b. 27 f. 4 1912-1961
 - b. 6 f. 1-6 1913-1924
Folders 1-5 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 338B.
 - b. 7 f. 1-8 1913-1955
Folders 1-4 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 338A.
 - b. 8 f. 1 1926-1961
 - b. 27 f. 5-7 A-X 1908-1954
 - b. 27 f. 8-10 A-H 1908-1960
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 296
 - b. 28 f. 1-4 I-W 1909-1921
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 296
 - b. 8 f. 2-7 A-O 1900s-1960s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 340

Letters (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 1-3 P-Y 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 340
- b. 9 f. 4-7 A-L 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 342
- b. 10 f. 1-5 M-Z 1900s-1960s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 342
- b. 10 f. 6-8 A-G 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 344
- b. 11 f. 1-3 H-W 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 344
- b. 11 f. 4 Cards and Invitations 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 293
- b. 11 f. 5-7 Christmas Cards 1910s-1930s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 296
- b. 12 f. 1 Dramatists' Guild 1920s-1930s
- b. 12 f. 2 Invitations and Telegrams 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 296
- b. 12 f. 3-4 Postcards 1910s-1930s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 296
- b. 12 f. 5 Yeats, William Butler 1910s
- b. 12 f. 6 Lists 1920s-1950s
- b. 27 f. 2 Military Service 1918-1919

Photographs

Personal

- b. 12 f. 7-10 1890s-1930s
- b. 22 f. 1-2 1900s-1920s
Folder 1 contains catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 375.
- b. 13 f. 1-6 1900s-1930s
- b. 14 f. 1-4 1900s-1950s
- b. 28 f. 5 1900s-1950s
- o. 1 1928

Production

- b. 14 f. 5-7 1920s-1930s
 - b. 22 f. 4-20 1920s-1930s
 - b. 23 f. 1-21 1920s-1930s
 - b. 24 f. 1-16 1920s-1930s
 - b. 25 f. 1-17 1920s-1930s
 - b. 26 f. 1-25 1920s-1930s
 - o. 2 1920s-1930s
 - b. 15 f. 1-2 Programs 1900s-1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 389
 - b. 28 f. 6-7 Programs 1913-1961
- The Stagers, Inc. Scrapbooks

The Stagers, Inc. Scrapbooks (cont.)

- v. 4 1920s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 311
- v. 5 1920s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 379
- v. 6 Certificate of Incorporation 1925
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 380
- o. 1 *Rosmersholm* 1920s
Poster.

Theater Attendance Scrapbooks

- v. 7 1899-1902
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 378
- v. 8 1902-1904
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 302
- v. 9 1904-1905
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 304
- b. 15 f. 3 Washington Square Players 1917
Photographic souvenir.

Writings and Notes

By Edward Goodman

- b. 15 f. 4-8 1900s-1920s
- b. 16 f. 1-8 1900s-1920s
- v. 10 1910s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 378
- b. 29 f. 1-2 1910s-1920s
- b. 16 f. 9 *Adventure* 1900s-1920s
Co-written with J. A. Meyer.
- b. 16 f. 10 *As Others See Us* 1900s-1920s
Co-written with Theresa Helburn.
- b. 17 f. 1 *At the Brink* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 2 *A Book of Breathings in the Night* 1900s
- b. 17 f. 3 *The Clod* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 4 *The Cry in the Dark* 1900s
- b. 17 f. 5 *Dreams* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 6-7 *En Deshabille* 1913, 1941
- b. 17 f. 8 *Eugenically Speaking* 1914
- b. 17 f. 9 *The False Christ* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 10 *Fear* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 11 *Generation* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 12 *Genius Inc.* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 13-14 *Getting Better* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 15 *Helpmeet* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 16 *High Speed* 1900s

Writings and Notes (cont.)
By Edward Goodman (cont.)

- b. 17 f. 17 *I Suspect* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 18 *If God Had Taken Him* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 19 *An Important Letter* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 20 *The Impossible Husband* 1913
- b. 17 f. 21 *The Instrument of God* 1918
- b. 17 f. 22 *The Jest* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 23 *The Laws* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 24 *The Melting Point* 1910s
- b. 17 f. 25 *Molding Destiny* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 26 *My Portrait* 1900s-1920s
- b. 17 f. 27 *A Novel Monologue* 1915
- b. 18 f. 1-3 *Old Adam* 1910s
- b. 18 f. 4 *Other Lives* 1919
Co-written with Theresa Helburn.

- b. 18 f. 5 *PA in the Car* 1913
- b. 18 f. 6 *Poems* 1910s
- b. 18 f. 7 *Point No-Point* 1910s
- b. 18 f. 8 *The Portrait on the Wall* 1900s-1920s
- b. 18 f. 9 *A Private Account* 1910s
- b. 18 f. 10 *Pro and Con-fessions* 1900s-1920s
- b. 18 f. 11 *Props: A Play in One Act* 1915
- b. 18 f. 12 *Quick Action* 1910s
- b. 18 f. 13 *The Quodrangle* 1900s
- b. 18 f. 14 *Readers' Reports Materials* 1950s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 293
- b. 18 f. 15 *Record of Manuscripts* 1910-1920s
MWEZ + N.C. 19, 296
- b. 19 f. 1 *Robber Romance* 1910s
- b. 19 f. 2 *Saviors* 1915
- b. 19 f. 3-7 *Scenes* 1910s
- b. 19 f. 8-9 *School Assignments* 1900s
- b. 20 f. 1 *Shadows* 1900s-1920s
- b. 20 f. 2 *Sold in One Act* 1914
- b. 20 f. 3 *Speech* 1920s-1950s
- b. 20 f. 4 *A Story in Three Chapters* 1900s-1920s
- b. 20 f. 5 *Superstition* 1900s-1920s
- b. 20 f. 6 *A Swatch* 1900s-1920s
- b. 20 f. 7-8 *Taking a Step* 1900s-1920s
- b. 20 f. 9 *The Test* 1913
- b. 20 f. 10 *A Thousand a Year* 1900s-1920s
- b. 20 f. 11 *A Title or a Farm* 1900s-1920s

Writings and Notes (cont.)

By Edward Goodman (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 12 *Town and Country* 1900s
- b. 20 f. 13 *The Ungrateful Age in a Grateful Play / "Years of Discretion" a Delightful Comedy Delightfully Acted* 1910s
- b. 20 f. 14 *Unrecorded* 1900s
- b. 20 f. 15 *The Weekly Guide* 1989-1899
- b. 20 f. 16 *When Budda was Young* 1924
- b. 20 f. 17 *The Wiz* 1921
Co-written with Patrick Kearney.

- b. 20 f. 18-19 *Yesterday* 1910s

- By Others
- b. 20 f. 20-21 1900s-1920s
- b. 21 f. 1-7 1900s-1947
Folders 6-7 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 465.

- b. 29 f. 3 1920s-1960s

- b. 20 f. 20-21 By Others 1900s-1920s
- b. 21 f. 1-7 By Others 1900s-1947
Folders 6-7 contain catalog number MWEZ + N.C. 19, 465.